

Defensive Travel Briefing

You are the target: The risk of becoming an intelligence target increases greatly with foreign travel. You can become a target of a foreign intelligence agency or security service at any time in any country. Never think, "They wouldn't risk something like that against me." The potential benefits are great and the risk very low when an intelligence service is operating on its home turf. You are never too low-ranking to be of interest. People at all levels can provide or give access to valuable information. What you think is useless information can be gold to a foreign intelligence agency.

Terrorism has steadily risen in the past years. U.S. personnel are favored targets because:

- Military and Government Personnel are usually easily identifiable
- Largest contingent of the U.S. Government overseas
- Symbols of the U.S.
- Create media sensation and National recognition of terrorists cause when attacked.

Prior to departure: Contact your Security Office at DSN 361-5145 or commercial 06827-5145 to obtain travel advisory information and briefings for the countries you intend to visit. Ensure that items you carry with you are not controversial or prohibited. Political material or anything that could be considered pornographic should not be carried. Prescription drugs should be clearly marked and carry only necessary quantities. Limit the amount of identification that you take. Make photocopies of identification and credit cards you plan to take with you and leave the photocopy at home. Write down your passport number and keep it separate from your passport. Do the same with your address and telephone number.

Upon arrival: An accurate declaration of all money and valuables should be made at entry, some countries give the traveler a copy of the declaration which must be surrendered upon leaving. It is important to keep receipts of all money exchanges, as these frequently are required on departure. Undeclared sums of U.S. or other currency are likely to cause difficulty with authorities and may be confiscated upon departure. Declare such items as cameras, radios, etc., to preclude possible explanations, customs charges, or confiscation when you leave. Use of public transportation is recommended rather than driving yourself, because involvement in traffic accidents can be problematic.

Your activities and behavior: In all of your activities show discretion and common sense. Maintain a low profile and refrain from any behavior that may make you conspicuous or a potential target. Never engage in any activity that may be considered illegal in any way. Avoid excessive drinking or gambling.

Do not discuss sensitive information, Unit, deployment, mission, etc., in any vehicle, restaurant, hotel or other public place. In any public place, your conversation may be overheard, or you may be monitored. Do not leave any sensitive information in your

luggage in a hotel room unattended. There are numerous reports of luggage being searched or rummaged through when left in a hotel room.

Foreign Intelligence services may place you under physical surveillance or you may suspect that you are being watched. It is better to ignore the surveillance than to attempt to lose or evade it. In any event, your actions should be prudent and not likely to generate suspicion. Good precautionary measures are to use well traveled highways and avoid establishing routines.

Never try to photograph military personnel, installations, or other "restricted areas." It is best to also refrain from photographing police installations, industrial structures, transportation facilities and border areas.

Be aware of overly friendly or solicitous people that you meet. Do not share any work related information with any person who does not have a need to know.

Never accept any package and agree to transport it for someone, even if you feel it's legitimate. If there is anything prohibited in the package, you are the one holding it, not the person who gave it to you.

If you expect to be writing or receiving mail, remember that it may be subject to censorship. Never make references to any sensitive information.

Avoid any areas where there is political or ethnic unrest, demonstrations or protests.

Should you be detained or arrested for any reason by the police or any other foreign officials, be cooperative and contact the U.S. Embassy or Consulate immediately. Do not make any statements or sign any documents you do not fully understand until you have conferred with an Embassy representative.

Upon your return: Contact your Security Officer to report foreign contacts, unusual incidents or suspicious acts. Especially if illegal or unauthorized access is sought to classified or sensitive information or you are concerned that you may be the target of an actual or attempted exploitation by a foreign country.

Emergency notification: Before your departure, it is recommended that you provide your family or a close friend with an itinerary, phone numbers of hotels and method of reaching you should an emergency arise.

**USAG Benelux Security Office
DSN 361-5145 Commercial 06827-5145**